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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 19 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (for the period from 29 July 2014 to 1 December 2014), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Committee on its thirty-eighth ministerial meeting, which was held in Malabo from 29 July to 2 August 2014, and two enclosures:

- Malabo Appeal on the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic;
- List of participants (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97 (h), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anatolio **Ndong Mba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

I. Introduction

1. The thirty-eighth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Malabo from 29 July to 2 August 2014.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

3. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) served as the Committee's secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by his Special Representative for Central Africa, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, who is also the Head of UNOCA.

4. The following United Nations entities took part in the proceedings as observers: the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

5. The following entities also participated as observers: the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA).

6. The meeting of experts opened with a ceremony that included two statements: one by the representative of the Government of Equatorial Guinea and one by the Chair of the meeting of experts. In his statement, the representative of the Government, Mr. Ntugu Abeso Oyana, Ambassador and Diplomatic Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, thanked the participants and encouraged them to engage in fruitful discussions at the meeting. In his statement, the Chair of the meeting of experts, Mr. Alex Tordeta Ratebaye, assessed the implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-seventh meeting of the Committee, held in N'Djamena in December 2013, and informed the Committee about the work done to prepare the agenda of the thirty-eighth meeting. That document had been prepared in collaboration with the Committee secretariat at the meeting of representatives of member States held in New York. Mr. Ratebaye also emphasized the importance of implementing the Committee's recommendations to enable it to make good progress.

7. The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting featured:

- A statement by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Chad, represented by Ms. Isabelle Housna Kassiré, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;
- A message from the Secretary-General of ECCAS, delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Guy Pierre Garcia;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily;
- A statement by the representative of the Government of Equatorial Guinea, Ms. Maria Angeles Miaga Bibang, Secretary of State for Financial Affairs, Inspection and State Property at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

II. Adoption of the agenda and election of the Bureau

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Report of the outgoing Bureau.
4. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting.
5. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa.
6. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative.
7. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa.
8. Piracy and maritime security.
9. Combating armed groups in Central Africa.
10. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
11. Poaching in Central Africa.
12. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee.
13. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of its strategic partnerships.
14. Thematic discussion on elections in the Central African subregion: national electoral capacity-building for the conduct of credible and peaceful elections.

15. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by the member States.

16. Place and date of the next meeting.

17. Other matters.

18. Adoption of the report of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting.

9. Equatorial Guinea was elected Chair of the Standing Advisory Committee by acclamation.

10. The Committee also elected the following member States:

- First Vice-Chair: Burundi
- Second Vice-Chair: Angola
- Rapporteur: Gabon

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau

11. The outgoing Chair briefed the Committee on activities carried out since its thirty-seventh meeting, held in N'Djamena from 19 to 23 December 2013. He mentioned the following matters in particular:

(a) Preparations for the thirty-eighth meeting in collaboration with the Committee secretariat, both in New York and in N'Djamena;

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-seventh meeting, many of which had started being implemented. However, despite reminders to States, the levels of contributions to the trust fund and ratification of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), ratified to date by only four States, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance remained low. The modernization of elections and of the civil registry, with the introduction of biometric devices, and cross-cutting threats related to peace and security, such as piracy and terrorism, remained topical issues;

(c) Involvement of Chad, as the Chair of ECCAS and as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, in seeking solutions to the crisis in the Central African Republic, as evidenced by its input into major decisions concerning that country: Security Council resolution 2149 (2014) and the conclusions of the fifth meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, held in Addis Ababa on 7 July 2014, which had led to the convening of the forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic, held in Brazzaville from 21 to 23 July 2014. States in the region that were members of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic had also played a key role;

(d) Role played by Chad in the United Nations Security Council, as a non-permanent member of the Council, and in close collaboration with the other African members of the Security Council and the permanent missions of Central

African States to the United Nations in New York, in restoring peace in the Central African Republic;

(e) Care of refugees from the Central African Republic and third-country nationals;

(f) Organization of a series of workshops by ECCAS on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which were devoted to women and Central African parliamentarians and addressed the ownership of legal instruments such as the Kinshasa Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

IV. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting

12. The secretariat said that a workshop had been held in Douala, Cameroon, on 8 and 9 July 2014 with a view to implementing the recommendation that a regional strategy and framework for dialogue and reflection on prison security should be implemented, with the support of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, to address sexual violence in prisons.

13. Regarding the recommendation that a subregional workshop should be organized on the topic of ritual killings, the secretariat informed the Committee that everything had been put in place for a workshop to be held as a side event during the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting, in consultation with the host country and in coordination with ECCAS.

14. The Committee also discussed the status of ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The member States that had not yet done so were urged to ratify the Charter.

15. The Committee was informed that the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa had worked actively with all countries of the subregion to initiate the process of ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

16. The Committee decided to carry forward the following recommendations which had been made at its thirty-seventh meeting but which had not been implemented:

(a) Workshops should be held at future Committee meetings to enhance understanding of the adaptation and harmonization of member States' national legislation on all forms of crime affecting the subregion;

(b) The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to the member States at least two weeks in advance of the ministerial meetings in order to collect comments from those States;

(c) Member States that had not yet done so should ratify the Kinshasa Convention;

(d) Discussions should be held on armed groups in the subregion other than the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA);

(e) The implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) should be discussed at future Committee meetings;

(f) Contributions to the overall start-up budget of 240,110,000 CFA francs for the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, should be paid and shared by the States signatories to the relevant protocol as follows:

(i) Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea: 32,843,000 CFA francs

(ii) Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad: 25,263,000 CFA francs

(iii) Central African Republic and Sao Tome and Principe: 12,630,000 CFA francs;

(g) Member States should pursue their efforts for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

V. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

17. The document on the review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa prepared by the ECCAS secretariat served as the basis for discussion among member States.

18. That review focused on four main areas: political and institutional developments, domestic and cross-border security, the humanitarian and human rights situation, and the situation in each State.

19. The security situation in Central Africa was a cause for concern, given the increased presence of Boko Haram on the Cameroon-Nigeria border and the ongoing violence in the Central African Republic.

20. With regard to political and institutional developments, the resignation of the President of the Central African Republic, Mr. Michel Djotodia, and his Prime Minister, Mr. Nicolas Tiangaye, followed by the election of Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza as the Transitional Head of State of the Central African Republic, had opened the way for a new hopeful process for the Central African Republic and the Central African subregion.

21. On the diplomatic front, ECCAS had convened the Sixth Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in N'Djamena on 9 and 10 January 2014, to consider the question of the Central African Republic. The forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue, held in Brazzaville from 21 to 23 July 2014, had concluded with the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement in the Central African Republic, the first phase of a peace process that would continue in the 16 prefectures and conclude with a national reconciliation forum in Bangui.

22. On domestic and cross-border security, Central Africa was facing a combination of threats, including narcoterrorism and the activities of Boko Haram, which affected countries of the subregion such as Cameroon and Chad; poaching; maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea; and the persistence of the crime of ritual killing in some States.

23. The States members of ECCAS had made unceasing efforts to promote human rights and good governance and to improve the humanitarian situation, yet significant challenges remained on all those fronts in the Central African subregion.

24. The geopolitical and security situation, country by country, was described as follows.

Angola

25. Since the previous meeting, Angola had enjoyed a favourable political climate, which had enabled it to play a significant role in African diplomacy. The country was also developing significantly.

26. Throughout the month of June 2014, the country had conducted its first general population and housing census, to improve the distribution of national wealth.

27. The country had entered a phase of intense diplomatic activity; for example, it had been chairing the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

28. In addition, Angola had been involved in efforts to resolve the conflict in the Central African Republic and to operationalize the peace and security architecture in Central and Southern Africa.

29. In terms of bilateral engagement, Angola had established a joint technical commission of border experts with the Congo.

30. On domestic security, the authorities had conducted a major campaign to disarm the civilian population. That campaign, spearheaded by the national police, had been held from March 2008 to April 2014, and had led to the collection of:

- 89,417 assorted weapons
- 48,852 magazines
- 441,852 rounds
- 15,397 explosives

31. The National Commission for Disarming the Civilian Population, in partnership with the organization HALO Trust, had destroyed 63,093 weapons of various calibres, in addition to magazines and explosives.

32. Efforts to raise awareness of disarmament issues among the civilian population had continued under the slogan "*Si tu es conscient, désarme ton esprit*" ("A conscious mind leaves weapons behind"), to encourage citizens to dispose of their weapons. The Angolan authorities had also passed a new law governing private security companies.

33. The country had taken steps to ease the heavy migratory pressures it faced, such as repatriating illegal immigrants, conducting criminal investigations and strengthening vigilance at the border.

Burundi

34. Since the previous meeting, the political and security situation in Burundi had been dominated by the run-up to the elections; the country was on course for peaceful, transparent and democratic elections.

35. At the political level, a law on the electoral code had been accepted by all political parties and enacted on 3 June 2014; the law on the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission had also been enacted.

36. The Independent National Electoral Commission had introduced the electoral calendar, with the presidential election scheduled for 26 June 2015 and, in the event of a second round, 27 July 2015. Under the same calendar, the legislative and local elections would take place on 26 May 2015, elections to the Senate on 17 July 2015, and elections to local councils at the *colline* and *quartier* levels on 24 August 2015.

37. In an effort to create an enabling environment for the 2015 elections, exchange and awareness-raising workshops for representatives of political parties, political actors, civil society and partners had been organized and had led to an agreement on a road map accepted by all political parties and facilitated by the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), and the signing of a code of conduct by the heads of political parties and political actors.

38. Burundi had conducted a second voluntary civilian disarmament campaign, which had produced highly satisfactory results.

39. Burundi also continued to participate in African security initiatives, including the deployment of troops and police in the Central African Republic and Somalia. The Head of State himself, Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, had demonstrated Burundi's commitment in that regard by travelling to those two countries.

Cameroon

40. Since the previous ministerial meeting, the security situation had taken centre stage in Cameroon.

41. The country was grappling simultaneously with the consequences of the crisis in the Central African Republic and the activities of the Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram. In relation to the former, the authorities faced the challenge of managing more than 200,000 refugees and displaced persons present in the country.

42. The defence and security forces were working to address the humanitarian and security challenges arising from the presence of those refugees and from incursions by armed gangs into Cameroonian territory.

43. Over the last six months, Boko Haram had stepped up its attacks, incursions and hostage-taking in the Far North region of Cameroon, forcing the authorities to tighten and adjust security arrangements in the region and to establish a system for coordinating actions with neighbouring countries, including in the area of intelligence.

44. The Cameroonian authorities had just established an operational command centre in the Far North region to vigorously combat Boko Haram and to prevent any incursions by other armed groups.

Congo

45. Throughout the period under review, the Congo had continued its efforts to consolidate peace, security and stability and to promote national reconciliation.

46. At the political level, the main topic of discussion was a possible change to the Constitution.

47. On the diplomatic front, the mediation efforts of ECCAS, led by the President of the Congo, in the crisis in the Central African Republic had been transformed into an international mediation effort at the fifth meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, held in Addis Ababa on 7 July 2014, with the addition of the United Nations and the African Union to the mediation team. Following that meeting and the conclusions of the summit of ECCAS Heads of State and Government, held in Malabo on 27 June 2014, Brazzaville had hosted the forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic from 21 to 23 July 2014. The agreement on the cessation of hostilities in the Central African Republic, a first step in a comprehensive process that would be implemented in that country, had been signed at that forum.

48. With regard to security, the Government of the Congo had decided to begin escorting to the border all foreign nationals who were in an irregular situation in the country.

49. On the humanitarian front, following the example of other neighbouring countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad), the Congo had taken in some 16,000 refugees from the Central African Republic.

50. In addition, as part of its activities within ECCAS, the Congo was actively preparing to host the multinational and multidimensional peacekeeping exercise of the Central African Multinational Force known as "Loango 2014".

Gabon

51. The overall situation in Gabon had remained peaceful and stable. The political highlight had been the appointment of a new Prime Minister following the local elections, in which a biometric database had been used for the first time and which had resulted in another win for the ruling Parti démocratique gabonais.

52. Following those elections, the President of Gabon had convened the first national council of the Parti démocratique gabonais, followed by provincial councils, and had established the presidential majority for social progress and development. At the same time, the opposition had begun building consensus in preparation for the 2016 presidential elections.

53. On the social front and in accordance with the three pillars of peace, development and sharing for a fair and equitable distribution of natural resources, the Head of State had decided to implement the social pact, which sought, through targeted actions, to:

- Reactivate the social safety nets for the most vulnerable;
- Finance income-generating activities;
- Extend universal health coverage to private sector employees and provide broader support to low-income households.

54. To put an end to the disparities and sense of injustice in the system for awarding bonuses in the central administrations, the Government had decided, in July 2014, to suspend the common funds that had been allocated to just one category of civil servants and to extend them to more people (some 31,000 civil servants) in the form of a performance incentive bonus totalling nearly 20 billion CFA francs.

Equatorial Guinea

55. Since the last ministerial meeting, Equatorial Guinea had remained peaceful, secure and stable. That positive state of affairs had brought tangible socioeconomic development in the form of major infrastructure and sanitation projects.

56. It was against that positive backdrop that Equatorial Guinea had hosted the twenty-third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Malabo in June 2014.

57. Domestic and cross-border security had been stable, with the national security services operating normally. Nevertheless, Equatorial Guinea continued to struggle to control the steady inflow of immigrants to its territory, and the authorities had been forced to repatriate those who were in an irregular situation.

58. On the international stage, Equatorial Guinea had been helpful in resolving the conflict in the Central African Republic by contributing 220 men with the necessary equipment to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA).

59. Equatorial Guinea hoped to implement actions from the consensual road map adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers responsible for emigration and immigration, held in Yaoundé in December 2007, to define practical modalities for the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital within the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

Central African Republic

60. The highlight of the political situation in the Central African Republic since the previous meeting had been the election of Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza as Transitional Head of State and the appointment of a new Prime Minister, Mr. André Nzapayéké.

61. Despite the efforts by those two officials, with the backing of donors, the strengthened presence of the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic (EUFOR-RCA), the French Sangaris force and MISCA, violence and barbaric acts continued.

62. In the light of the looming chaos, the Security Council had adopted resolution 2149 (2014) authorizing the deployment of almost 12,000 peacekeepers to serve, as from 15 September 2014, under the new United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

63. In addition, the Central African Republic had initiated a new political process, with the support of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, with a view to reconciling its citizens and consolidating its stabilization and democratization process.

64. That process, which had begun with the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic, which had brought together the leaders of the opposition parties, civil society, the Government and armed groups, two of which (ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka) had signed the cessation of hostilities agreement, would be followed by regional public consultations and end with the Bangui forum. The process had generated high hopes for a resolution of the crisis and a return to normal life in the Central African Republic.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

65. Since the military defeat of the 23 March Movement on 5 November 2013, the general situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been calm. The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued their military campaign to eradicate negative forces such as the Allied Democratic Forces/ National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, which they had defeated on 8 July 2014, while 80 per cent of indigenous armed groups had decided to lay down their weapons voluntarily and to follow the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

66. With regard to the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, in the light of the positive developments in the military campaign against all negative forces, on 31 May 2014, fighters had begun to hand in their weapons voluntarily to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). They were currently waiting with their dependants (women and children) at various locations in North Kivu Province and South Kivu Province to either return to Rwanda or be given asylum in another country by the end of 2014. Those who did not comply would be disarmed by military force.

67. That decision had been supported by the participants in a joint ministerial meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), held in Luanda on 2 July 2014, who had given the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda three months to turn their words into action; the situation would be assessed on 2 September 2014.

68. In May 2014, following the deportation of a variety of foreign nationals from the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had welcomed its nationals who had been deported as part of that operation. The authorities in Kinshasa had deplored the errors that had been made during the deportation of nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following that operation, the two countries had come together and signed an agreement on the movement and establishment of persons, which was still to be ratified by the two States.

69. On the political front, there had been reports of an attempt by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to amend the Constitution in order to strike down the two-term limit for presidential mandates. It should be noted that, to date, the Government had not officially commented on the matter.

70. On 11 and 12 June 2014, an incident had occurred at the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in which five Congolese soldiers had been killed. Ad hoc investigations by the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism were under way to clarify the situation and determine who was responsible.

71. The most recent incident had been the attack, on 22 July 2014, on the Tshatshi camp, home to the Presidential Guard in Kinshasa, by some thirty men, who had been repelled by the security forces within 40 minutes. The incident was being thoroughly investigated by the competent Congolese authorities.

Rwanda

72. Since the last ministerial meeting, the sociopolitical and security situation in Rwanda had remained stable.

73. On the political front, institutions had been operating properly for more than 10 years. The country had peacefully commemorated both the twentieth anniversary of the April 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and the twentieth anniversary of Liberation Day on 4 July 2014.

74. Rwanda was committed to African integration in general and regional integration in particular. Thus, all holders of an African passport could obtain a visa at the first point of entry, while nationals of neighbouring countries did not need a visa to enter Rwanda.

75. With regard to cross-border security, an incident had occurred at the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 11 and 12 June 2014. The Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism, involving Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and MONUSCO, was still investigating the incident.

76. With a view to finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the threats posed by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the second joint meeting of ministers from the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and SADC had been held in Luanda on 2 July 2014. The recommendations from that meeting gave hope that that negative force, which had been behind the insecurity in the Great Lakes region since the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, would be neutralized once and for all. It should be noted that the second ministerial meeting had been held pursuant to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013 by the Heads of States of the region.

77. On the diplomatic front, Rwanda continued to maintain and improve its friendly relations and cooperation with the States members of the Committee, including by opening diplomatic missions in Angola and the Congo, to cover the CEMAC countries, and in Sao Tome and Principe. The President of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, had visited Rwanda on 14 and 15 July 2014; the visit had ended with the signing of a general cooperation agreement.

78. There had been regular meetings between the political and security officials of Rwanda and South Africa, with a view to improving relations between the two countries.

Sao Tome and Principe

79. Since the last ministerial meeting, the general situation in Sao Tome and Principe had been peaceful and stable.

80. On the political front, the country was preparing to hold local, regional and legislative elections on 12 October 2014. It should be recalled that the local and regional elections had been postponed for a year for financial and technical reasons. The Government had also launched a participatory consultation process. The country had made the most progress on the diplomatic front, by strengthening relations with Angola, the leading Portuguese-speaking country in Africa.

81. The domestic and cross-border security situation was stable.

Chad

82. The overall situation in Chad since the last ministerial meeting had been peaceful and stable. Chad, in its capacity as current Chair of ECCAS, as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and as a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council, had made concerted diplomatic efforts during the period under review to bring peace to the subregion. The Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic had been one of the outcomes.

83. With regard to domestic politics, the dialogue between the Government and the opposition had continued in a calm atmosphere.

84. That had enabled the country to undertake a campaign to improve standards in public life and combat corruption, which had led to the prosecution of senior national and local officials.

85. The country was also working with the Extraordinary African Chambers and the international community to ensure that the trial of former President Hissène Habré could begin.

86. Domestic and cross-border security had been affected by the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and other countries, but mainly by the withdrawal of Chadian troops from MISCA following accusations that Chad had been supporting the Séléka coalition and wanted to destabilize the Central African Republic.

87. Chad had reiterated its commitment to assist the Central African Republic in other ways.

88. Chad was also committed to combating terrorism. That had been the primary reason for the visit of the Head of State of France, Mr. François Hollande, to N'Djamena on 19 July 2014, during which the command centre of the new Operation Barkhane, tasked with securing the Sahel, had been established.

Recommendations on the geopolitical review

89. At the end of the geopolitical review, the Committee recommended the following:

(a) A subregional strategy should be developed to combat drugs and other psychotropic substances and to encourage all member States to establish or strengthen national commissions to that end, and to report regularly on their activities to the Committee;

(b) The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to the member States at least two weeks in advance of the ministerial meetings in order to collect comments from those States;

(c) The text of the Malabo Appeal on the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic should be published (see enclosure I).

VI. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

90. Since the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee, the measures taken by the ECCAS secretariat with a view to implementing the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa had focused on three areas:

(a) Development of the technical capacities of law enforcement agents in the democratic governance of the security sector in Central Africa;

(b) International cooperation and exchange of experiences in security sector reform in Central Africa;

(c) Appropriation of the Code of Conduct by the Defence and Security Commission and the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa.

91. The ECCAS secretariat had continued to provide technical support with a view to strengthening the institutional capacities of member States in the democratic governance of the security sector in Central Africa.

92. In that regard, the secretariat, along with the senior consultant and national consultants, had continued working on the white paper on private security companies in Central Africa. A workshop of governmental and independent experts had been organized in Yaoundé on 26 and 27 May 2014 to review that draft white paper. At the workshop, participants had reviewed and analysed the information collected and compiled by the senior consultant.

93. At the end of the workshop, it was recommended that the secretariat should obtain country profiles on the topic from national consultants. The secretariat had started collecting information from member States through two field missions. The first mission had been deployed to Cameroon and Chad in the second half of July 2014. The second mission had been deployed to Angola, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 25 July; it was to end on 2 August 2014. A third field mission to Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and Sao Tome and Principe would be deployed by the end of 2014.

94. The secretariat would provide the country profiles to the senior consultant for the finalization of the drafting process. It had already planned to organize three seminars to raise awareness of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, to be held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in September 2014 and in the Congo and Gabon in November 2014.

95. With regard to cooperation, since the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Committee, the secretariat had exchanged experiences and best practices on security sector reform primarily with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat.

96. The secretariat had taken part in the joint African Union-United Nations mission to Bangui from 19 to 29 May 2014 to assess the security sector reform process in the Central African Republic. The partners of the Central African Republic would be able to use the results of the assessment mission to support all initiatives relating to justice reform, promotion of civilian and military relations, strengthening of parliamentary oversight of defence and security institutions,

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in the Central African Republic, and many other aspects of the consolidation of good governance in the security sector in that country.

97. The specific measures taken by the secretariat with regard to the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention had focused on two areas:

(a) Support of institutional capacity-building in combating the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa;

(b) Cooperation and exchange of information in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa.

98. The secretariat provided technical assistance to ECCAS member States with a view to establishing and operationalizing national commissions for combating the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa.

99. In that context, the secretariat had organized a national forum on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Cameroon, held in Yaoundé on 17 and 18 July 2014. The aim of the forum had been, inter alia, to raise the awareness of Cameroonian authorities of the need to quickly establish and operationalize the country's commission for combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

100. The secretariat was preparing other forums similar to the one held in Cameroon; they were expected to be held throughout the second half of the current year in four other target countries: the Congo on 7 and 8 August, Gabon on 23 and 24 September, Chad in October and the Central African Republic in November 2014.

101. The secretariat, in cooperation with the Chadian Parliament and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention, based in Birmingham, United Kingdom, had organized a forum on the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of subregional and international commitments to women and peace and security in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena on 8 and 9 April 2014.

102. The aim of the forum had been to raise awareness among parliamentarians of the subregion of the importance of their involvement in educating and encouraging the relevant stakeholders to fulfil both their regional commitments (Kinshasa Convention) and their international undertakings (Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)) on women and peace and security in Central Africa.

103. The secretariat had also provided technical support to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for the publication of its *Disarmament Yearbook* for 2013; its contribution had concerned the topic of counter-terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Central Africa and the measures taken by ECCAS and its member States.

104. The secretariat, along with other international organizations and representatives of civil society, had also participated in the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014; the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and

Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons had also been considered at that meeting.

105. Participants at the meeting had considered, inter alia, the need for each State Member of the United Nations to adopt good practices on the marking and tracing of weapons and on the management and securing of stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, including through measures concerning the physical security of civilian and military arsenals. They had also recommended that the role of regional and subregional organizations in cooperation and international assistance should be strengthened, in order to more effectively combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the world.

106. In preparation for the sixth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, to be held in 2016, an open-ended meeting of governmental experts would take place from 1 to 5 June 2015, under the auspices of the United Nations.

107. The Committee also agreed that a preparatory meeting should be held in late 2015 or early 2016 to prepare for the participation of Central African countries in the sixth biennial meeting.

108. Two important concerns should be addressed during the preparatory process:

(a) Management of weapons stockpiles in Central Africa;

(b) Management of invitations to participants.

109. The preparatory meeting could be held as part of the fortieth and forty-first ministerial meetings of the Committee.

110. The secretariat had signed a technical cooperation agreement with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) on 11 June 2014, dealing with the support that the Regional Centre should provide to ECCAS in the development of a guide for the harmonization of national legislation on small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. Upon adoption by governmental experts, the guide would be forwarded to member States by the secretariat for use in reviewing their current legislation on firearms.

111. Lastly, the first annual general meeting of the Central African Action Network on Small Arms, which the secretariat had helped to establish, was expected to be organized in the coming months. The Action Network was a collection of civil society organizations working to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the subregion. It used its advocacy capacities and expertise to support actions taken in that regard by States and the secretariat.

VII. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

Cross-border security

112. The Committee was informed that ECCAS had had a border programme since 2009, but that the programme had not gone into operation because the secretariat did not have an expert who could follow up the issue. An expert had been recruited in

2012 and had started working. The expert had prepared a programme of activities for the 2014 budget year that included several workshops.

113. A first workshop had been held in Bujumbura from 25 to 27 February 2014, and another in Douala, Cameroon, from 22 to 24 April 2014, to consider the problem of cross-border crime, which posed a threat to development and was an obstacle to socioeconomic integration in Central Africa. Another objective of the workshop had been to identify front-line actors with a view to reaching an agreement among member States on the various measures to be taken on both sides of borders in order to create a climate of peace, security and stability and to identify relevant cross-border community projects from law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations which could help to strengthen socioeconomic integration in Central Africa.

114. Another meeting had been held in Pointe-Noire, Congo, from 18 to 20 March 2014 to consider the issues of crime and cross-border cooperation in Central Africa. The objective had been to discuss recent developments in cross-border crime and their impact in the subregion; to explore new cross-border approaches; and to consider in particular how the services responsible for combating various types of crime could contribute to the formulation of public policies on security matters.

115. The last two workshops, on mapping of needs in the identification, delimitation and demarcation of borders in the ECCAS region, had been held in Libreville from 17 to 19 June 2014 and in Kinshasa from 9 to 11 July 2014.

116. After the ECCAS presentation, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) To include the issue of cross-border crime on the agenda of the ministerial meetings of the Advisory Committee;

(b) To facilitate the development of border-related curricula and training on border management in universities and vocational training centres in the region;

(c) To advocate a review of the traditional training programme of the Inter-State Customs Institute in Bangui to reflect current realities;

(d) To support member countries in acquiring the relevant documentation on the delimitation and demarcation of borders;

(e) To develop a communication plan on border issues;

(f) To establish a database on information pertaining to borders of the subregion;

(g) To support publications on border issues in Central Africa;

(h) To continue lobbying partners to mobilize the technical and financial resources needed to accelerate the demarcation of the borders of member States.

117. The Committee recommended that the African Union should set up a permanent body to coordinate actions to combat the illicit cross-border proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which it recognized as a major scourge on the continent.

Implementation of the Kinshasa Convention

118. The Central African States had not yet ratified and brought into force any subregional instrument, let alone the international Arms Trade Treaty, for combating the scourge of small arms and light weapons. It should also be recalled that those States had fought very hard and ultimately succeeded in having the Central African position, as expressed in the Sao Tome Declaration, reflected in the Treaty. That position was essentially that the United Nations should consider small arms and light weapons as conventional arms and recognize the close link between ammunitions and small arms and light weapons. The States members of the Committee now had to demonstrate their political will by signing and ratifying the text.

119. The third meeting of the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, of which ECCAS was a member, had been held in Nairobi on 14 and 15 May 2014. The primary objective of the Steering Committee was to enhance cooperation and synergy among its member States in their efforts to combat illicit small arms and light weapons. The Steering Committee had also been dealing with issues related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration since the adoption of the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Programme in 2012.

120. Participants at that meeting had highlighted the need for stronger implementation of measures set out in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and subsequent regional instruments, in an effort to curtail the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons.

121. Draft guides on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration had been developed and were in the process of being finalized by experts; those guides would cover the topics of possession, children and armed conflict, women and armed conflict, reintegration and support for national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives.

122. The Subregional Arms Control Mechanism had been established in accordance with the Khartoum Declaration on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons across the Neighbouring Countries of Western Sudan of 23 May 2012. Its members included Central African States, namely the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad. The States parties to the Khartoum Declaration had made a commitment to take measures to stem the flow of illicit weapons across their shared borders.

123. The African Conference of Directors and Inspectors General of Police had taken place in Algiers on 10 and 11 February 2014, in accordance with decision 491 (XXII) of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its twenty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2014. The Conference participants had adopted the Algiers Declaration on the establishment of the African Police Cooperation Organisation, which would be based in Algiers and operate under the supervision of the African Union. The report on the establishment of that entity was to have been submitted to the Heads of State and Government for approval at the twenty-third Summit of the African Union.

124. The Committee stressed the importance of sharing information on subregional peace and security activities ahead of meetings in order to enable better coordination.

Information from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

125. The representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) gave a presentation entitled "Disarmament in the Central African subregion", focusing on political and legal instruments and mechanisms for the control of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, and weapons of mass destruction, at the international, regional and subregional levels. He gave an account of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the International Tracing Instrument and Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction and 2117 (2013) on small arms and light weapons; the participation of States in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures; and the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention and the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty.

126. Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) was the first Security Council resolution to be dedicated exclusively to the issue of small arms and light weapons and to call for the implementation or strengthening of subregional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms.

127. States should provide updates on progress made at the national level with regard to the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument by submitting reports detailing their recent activities and financial and technical assistance needs in that regard, thereby providing potential partners and donors with the opportunity to meet those needs.

128. The UNREC representative briefed the Committee on the outcome of the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action and on the mandate for the meeting of experts to be held in 2015, which would consider, among other things, practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design, and the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

129. With regard to the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, UNREC and some subregional organizations, including the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, with financing from donors such as the European Union, had supported the arms marking and record-keeping process by providing marking machines, software and training. UNREC had also piloted a training course at its headquarters in Lomé in March 2014.

130. In April 2014, UNREC had provided training for trainers in managing ammunition stockpiles in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, which had been developed under the United Nations SaferGuard

knowledge resource management programme. The training had been primarily for States that were contributing troops to peacekeeping operations.

131. With a view to ensuring consistency with the International Small Arms Control Standards, UNREC was offering integrated firearms management training for the various government agencies involved in small arms and light weapons management. All of that training could also be delivered at the national and subregional levels at the request of member States.

132. UNREC was in the process of developing a guide for the harmonization of the national legislation of States parties to the Kinshasa Convention, with the cooperation and financial support of ECCAS. States were urged to ratify the Convention without delay.

133. More systematic participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures would increase transparency, build confidence and contribute to a better understanding of the challenges facing the subregion. In that regard, on 28 February 2014 the Office for Disarmament Affairs had sent a note verbale to the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, inviting them to submit information to the Register and to report on their military expenditures. UNREC stood ready to provide States with any assistance they might require.

134. The UNREC representative reiterated the importance of accelerating the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, which would contribute to peace and security in Central Africa. Since the opening of the Treaty for signature on 3 June 2013, it had been signed by 118 States, including 6 in the subregion, and 41 States had submitted instruments of ratification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Office for Disarmament Affairs encouraged States in the subregion that had not yet signed the Treaty to do so, and offered to support them in the ratification process.

135. After discussing the importance of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, the representative of UNREC confirmed that the Centre remained available to help build the capacities of the member States' defence and security forces and facilitate implementation of the Code of Conduct to complement the existing international instruments.

136. The Office for Disarmament Affairs encouraged Central African States that had not yet done so to submit their reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on combating the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to that resolution. The representative of UNREC provided an update on the technical workshops that had been held in March, April and June 2014 in order to assist States in the subregion with the preparation of their initial reports. UNREC was also available to support States members that wished to receive assistance in preparing their national implementation plans and organizing country visits by members and experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Standing Advisory Committee might wish to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at a future meeting.

Implementation of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

137. The regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa gave a presentation on the implementation of the Bangui declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa. He highlighted the continuing terrorist threats facing the subregion, citing, inter alia, the activities of LRA and repeated attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North region of Cameroon, an area abutting Nigeria, where the Islamist sect was based, and the actions and methods of operation of those armed groups, along with initiatives to stop such threats or limit their scope.

138. Two workshops had been held in 2014 to strengthen the relevant capacities of police and customs officials, one in Libreville, in January, and one in Bujumbura, in April; a set of measures to address terrorist threats had been adopted at those workshops. The various partners that had facilitated those technical meetings, in particular the United Nations, through the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, were to be commended.

139. Similar meetings would be held before the end of the year in Cameroon and the Congo. That approach was in line with the determination of the Central African Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms Network to perform its duties fully and to support States' efforts to take preventive measures against terrorism in Central Africa, including the political endorsement of a common strategy for the subregion. In that regard, there was an obligation to ensure respect for human rights; subregional organizations and other partners should also cooperate more closely to improve synergies in that effort.

140. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Adviser for the Sahel informed the Committee about the counter-terrorism efforts being made to implement the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Particularly noteworthy was the joint initiative that the working group on governance (pillar 1) and the working group on security (pillar 2) were currently undertaking, in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to conduct a study on community perceptions of the causes of insecurity and violent extremism in the border areas of the Sahel countries. The main objective of the study was to identify practical steps to be implemented without delay to strengthen community and governmental capacities to combat insecurity and violent extremism, especially in the border areas of the Sahel countries. The study should facilitate the rapid deployment to the Sahel countries of technical assistance related to counter-terrorism. The draft terms of reference of the study, which should cover eight countries in the Sahel, including Cameroon and Chad in Central Africa, were shared with the Committee.

141. The Committee asked to be kept informed on the progress of the study, and also recommended that a working relationship should be established between the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the Central African Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Arms Network, to facilitate the development of effective synergies and complementarities between the Sahel and Central Africa.

142. The Committee commended the regional coordinator for his briefing and reaffirmed the need to include the topic in the agenda of its various meetings.

VIII. Piracy and maritime security

143. The ECCAS secretariat reported to the Committee on the operationalization of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), headquartered in Pointe-Noire, which was scheduled to be inaugurated during the Loango 2014 military exercise.

144. In that connection, the Committee called upon the States members of ECCAS to take ownership of and implement the resolutions adopted at the fifteenth regular meeting of the Defence and Security Commission and confirmed by the sixth special meeting of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa.

145. The Committee recognized the need to launch the activities of CRESMAC, an important institution for the Gulf of Guinea security strategy.

146. The Committee was also informed that the resolutions adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, had started being effectively implemented. It welcomed the upcoming commissioning of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea. During a meeting held in Yaoundé on 5 June 2014, all of the Centre's basic documents, drafted by the interregional working group, had been adopted and signed by the chief executives of ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

147. The Congo, as the host country of CRESMAC, reiterated its commitment to hosting the meeting of ministers responsible for maritime transport and shipping, which had been expanded to include the heads of the relevant departments, in advance of the Summit of Heads of States of ECCAS in N'Djamena, to determine how contributions from the signatories would be financed and disbursed. The matter should be included in the agenda of the Summit, for the budget year 2015.

148. With regard to the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Yaoundé Summit, which required multifaceted reforms to ensure that the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa was binding three years following its adoption, the Congo had undertaken reforms in the areas referred to below.

149. Maritime governance:

- Ongoing review of texts on the coordination of State actions at sea and establishment of the interministerial committee for the coordination of State actions at sea;
- Further updating of texts on the national commission for maritime and port security;
- Adoption of and accession to more than 25 international conventions on securing maritime routes, preventing and combating illicit trafficking and fraudulent traffic in small arms and light weapons, and piracy and hostage-taking at sea.

150. Maritime economy:

- Involvement of the Congo in the implementation and dissemination of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2014;
- Establishment of an interministerial committee to implement the national social and environmental management plan for the coastline and the sea.

151. Maritime jurisdiction:

- Ongoing implementation of national mechanisms to establish maritime commercial courts or maritime chambers;
- Ongoing review of legislation on piracy and unlawful acts at sea.

152. Maritime security:

- Implementation of the national strategy for securing the Congolese maritime area by establishing a radar-equipped semaphore network, using ships and military aircraft to conduct patrols, and setting up a chain of command for carrying out operations along the country's coastline;
- Ongoing study on the implementation of the maritime traffic video surveillance and satellite monitoring project, to be carried out in waters under Congolese jurisdiction.

153. Maritime response and recovery:

- Publication of Decree No. 2014-89 of 21 March 2014 on the organization and operation of search and rescue services at sea and the establishment of the search and rescue technical committee; establishment of the search and rescue operations centre in Pointe-Noire, equipped by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

154. With regard to bilateral cooperation with international partners to address maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the Congo had undertaken the following actions:

- Inclusion of the Congo on the maritime security "white list" of the United States Coast Guard;
- Advocacy by the Congo at the twenty-eighth session of the IMO Assembly, leading to the adoption of resolution A.1069(28) on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, in which the Assembly called on Governments to consider making financial contributions to the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund. Since January 2014, the resolution had been bolstered by the IMO strategy for implementing sustainable maritime security measures in West and Central Africa;
- During the period under review, many Western navy warships had come to the Congo to participate in exchanges and joint exercises designed to strengthen the warning and response capacities of maritime security stakeholders and to reassert the authority of the State at sea as a deterrent against pirates.

IX. Combating armed groups in Central Africa

155. The Committee secretariat shared with participants the latest developments in the fight against LRA. The report of the Secretary-General on that issue and on the activities of UNOCA had been presented to the Security Council on 12 May 2014 (S/2014/319). That fight continued to be a priority for the United Nations, and UNOCA now had dedicated LRA policy advisers.

156. UNOCA continued to work with the African Union to implement its Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army. In that context, on the sidelines of the twenty-third Summit of the African Union, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, had held a working session with the African Union Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army Issue, Mr. Francisco Madeira. They had discussed the need to undertake a joint mission to the affected countries, particularly at a time when some of the States concerned (the Central African Republic and South Sudan) were facing issues that had an impact on the activities of the Regional Task Force of the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army.

157. A new African Union Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army Issue, Lieutenant General Jackson Kiprono Tuwei (retired) of Kenya, had been appointed on 10 July 2014. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa had expressed his determination to work with the Special Envoy to build on the significant results achieved thus far in combating the terrorist group.

158. Even though LRA was still a threat requiring greater mobilization, the number of displaced persons fleeing its atrocities had fallen from 420,000 in March 2013 to 160,000 in March 2014. Non-governmental organizations had made significant efforts to persuade the remnants of LRA to defect. The United Nations was also developing a campaign on the issue. For example, MONUSCO and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were carrying out joint operations in Orientale Province, including through a programme called "Welcome to Peace", established in February 2014.

159. Those joint operations targeted not only LRA but all the other "negative forces". Those operations had been successful, with some 20 villages in North Kivu being taken back from armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, a Ugandan-led Islamist rebel group that was under United Nations sanctions.

160. A meeting of LRA focal points (of the United Nations, the African Union, non-governmental organizations, regional and international partners, etc.) would take place before the end of 2014 in Entebbe, Uganda.

161. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable information provided. It also paid tribute to Mr. Abou Moussa, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, and to Ambassador Francisco Madeira, former African Union Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army Issue, for their commitment to the fight against that group and for their invaluable contributions to the promotion of peace and security in the subregion.

162. The Committee welcomed the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA and noted with satisfaction his

resolve to work closely with the new African Union Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army Issue. The Committee assured him of its support as he took up his mandate as Head of UNOCA.

163. The Committee recommended that a discussion should be held on armed groups in the subregion other than LRA, such as the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab.

X. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

164. The Committee took note of the recent initiatives undertaken by member States in the subregion to implement Security Council resolutions.

165. The Burundi delegation presented its programme for boosting the recruitment of women in the defence and security sector; the goal was to have women representing 17 per cent of the total workforce in the sector by 2017. Other activities included:

(a) Establishment of a national steering committee for the advancement of women, under the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000);

(b) Organization of a regional conference in July 2013 on women and peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region for the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and of resolution 1325 (2000) by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and Femmes Africa Solidarité, to enable women leaders to discuss and develop a road map for women's participation in the implementation of the Framework and the establishment of a process for the adoption of a regional plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000);

(c) On 9 April 2014, Burundi had officially launched sessions and special procedures for victims of gender-based sexual violence, the final report of which would include a document on the operationalization of the special chambers, a guide for the establishment of special courts, and a law on the prevention and suppression of and protection from gender-based violence and on victim care;

(d) From 30 May to 1 June 2014, the Children's Forum of Hope had been held in Bujumbura, with the participation of 13 countries that had signed the above-mentioned Framework, under the auspices of the Government of Burundi and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, with technical support from the United Nations Children's Fund.

166. The Gabonese delegation shared its country's positive experience with the introduction of an agriculture award devoted exclusively to women-run cooperatives. Since the establishment of that award, which could have a value of up

to 100 million CFA francs, the number of women-run agricultural cooperatives in Gabon had reached more than 100. In addition to promoting the employment and independence of women, those cooperatives contributed to the country's food self-sufficiency.

167. The Committee endorsed the recommendation by the delegation of the Congo that a comprehensive assessment should be conducted of the status of women in the entire subregion, in order to gain a full understanding of their situation. To that end, the Committee requested UNOCA to continue cooperating with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in the preparation of a detailed report on the implementation in Central Africa of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security. The report should indicate the progress made and the challenges or difficulties faced by countries and subregional bodies, and recommend measures that could be taken at both national and regional levels to ensure that those resolutions were implemented effectively in all Central African countries.

XI. Poaching in Central Africa

168. The Committee took note of the international conference on the illegal wildlife trade held in London in February 2014, where the issue of poaching had been discussed and which had been attended by Mr. Idriss Deby Itno and Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Chad and President of Gabon, respectively, on behalf of the Central African subregion.

169. Initiated by the Government of the United Kingdom and the Prince of Wales, the conference had brought together several African, Western and Asian decision makers and representatives of non-governmental and multilateral organizations involved in the preservation of ecosystems, especially forests.

170. Speaking on behalf of the subregion, the President of Gabon had reiterated the urgent need for a concerted effort at the national, regional, continental and global levels and greater cooperation between producer and consumer countries to reduce the demand and limit the supply of illegal wildlife products.

171. He had also called for the strengthening of institutions and legislation in the Central African countries on the preservation of wildlife and even on matters that went beyond that issue, given that it was no longer just an environmental concern. Such actions could include championing the occupational interests of forest rangers (by enhancing their status and training and improving their unfavourable working conditions, which involved low pay and high risks).

172. He had proposed that the international community should impose a 10-year moratorium on the ivory trade in order to allow time for elephant populations on the African continent to stabilize and for wildlife-related crime to be eradicated.

173. The Committee welcomed the establishment in New York of a Group of Friends to combat wildlife poaching in Central Africa. At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations had addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (A/68/553), with an annex containing relevant recommendations, including one calling for the establishment of a Group of Friends to combat poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking in the framework of the United Nations.

174. The Group had met on 2 May and 6 June 2014 to discuss the matter further and to find strategies for preparing and submitting a draft resolution on combating poaching to the General Assembly, with particular focus on the environmental, economic and security consequences of that activity.

175. Consultations between the States members of the Group of Friends were ongoing and States remained divided on a number of issues, including in dealing with source and consumer countries in the ivory trade.

176. The delegations of Germany and Gabon to the United Nations believed that efforts should focus on strategies to convince States to adopt a more flexible stance.

177. The Committee took note of the reaffirmation by Gabon that it stood ready to help strengthen cooperation among all States of the subregion.

178. The delegation recommended the establishment of an effective mechanism for the exchange of information; capacity-building among forest rangers; establishment of subregional mechanisms for coordination among the technically competent services of States; joint patrols under the coordination of ECCAS; establishment of a rapid reaction force of forest rangers under the auspices of ECCAS; harmonization of national legislation on the issue; and organization of seminars and capacity-building workshops by UNOCA and ECCAS.

179. The Committee welcomed the proposal by the delegation of Gabon to organize and host a high-level global conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The appointment of a representative or special envoy of the Secretary-General was also proposed.

180. The Congo expressed its firm commitment to combating poaching by working with its partners to implement a cross-border operational plan in the Dza-Odzala-Minkébé three-nation area (TRIDOM), comprising the Congo, Cameroon and Gabon. A meeting of those three countries had been held in Douala on 20 and 21 January 2014, at which it had been agreed that a road map would be developed, taking into account emerging trends in poaching, including gold washing, infrastructure development and involvement of Asian business agents.

181. At the initiative of the Congo, and in partnership with various international and subregional institutions, an international conference on combating poaching and the illicit trade in wildlife products would be held in Brazzaville in October 2014.

XII. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

182. The representative of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa highlighted the human rights implications of problems such as the crisis in the Central African Republic, the Boko Haram phenomenon on the Chad-Cameroon-Nigeria border, the recent expulsion of nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the Congo, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, etc. Commendable efforts had been made by the Governments of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the initiation of a dialogue between the two countries through the joint commission made up of security and defence committees set up to address those expulsions. It was to be hoped that special efforts would be made to seek solutions to those problems.

183. The representative of the Centre commended States for cooperating with international human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review. In particular, he commended Cameroon and Chad for extending a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate-holders, and the Congo and Gabon for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, respectively.

184. With regard to the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee at its thirty-seventh meeting that a subregional workshop on prison security should be organized, the Centre had held a seminar in Douala, Cameroon, on 8 and 9 July 2014 on building the human rights and security capacities of prison and law enforcement officers. At the end of that seminar, participants had expressed the hope that each Central African State would:

(a) Increase the financial and human resources it allocated to prison services;

(b) Ratify all international and regional instruments relating to human rights, including on security in correctional facilities;

(c) Expedite the implementation of prison reforms based on specific prison policies;

(d) Develop alternatives to imprisonment;

(e) Harmonize its code of penal procedure with those of other Central African countries and ensure its enforcement.

185. Participants had also called for the establishment of an independent subregional prisons observatory to ensure the application of prison standards.

186. Following the proposal by the Centre, the Committee recommended:

(a) Greater interaction with African and United Nations mechanisms for the monitoring of regional and international human rights instruments;

(b) Establishment and strengthening of national policies and programmes on the promotion and protection of human rights;

(c) Implementation of the recommendations of the subregional workshop on prison security held in July 2014.

187. The Centre would organize jointly with UNOCA a subregional workshop on the role of the media in elections, before the end of 2014. Several other seminars would be organized with ECCAS and member States to promote the protection of human rights in the electoral process.

188. The Committee welcomed the work of the Centre and encouraged it to continue promoting human rights and democracy in Central Africa, in cooperation with regional partners.

United Nations Office in Burundi, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

189. On behalf of the United Nations, the representative of UNOCA presented key information concerning the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African

Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). All preparations had been made for the official launch of MINUSCA on 15 September 2014, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2149 (2014). MINUSCA provided support to the transitional authorities in that regard and played a role in the international mediation process led by President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Congo. MINUSCA and UNOCA had participated actively in the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic. The Head of UNOCA represented the United Nations in the international mediation process.

190. The Committee took note of the ongoing commitment of MONUSCO to lasting peace in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and of its support for the authorities, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in efforts to promote democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where presidential elections would be held in 2016.

191. The Government of Burundi and BNUB were on excellent terms, despite the misunderstandings that had arisen in May 2014 following a problem involving a United Nations staff member. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi and the Burundian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation had held a joint briefing in June 2014 at which they had set out the major projects they were working on together.

192. BNUB would close on 31 December 2014, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2137 (2014), which encouraged the Government of Burundi, BNUB, the Peacebuilding Commission and the bilateral and multilateral partners that made up the transition steering group to map the international community's support to Burundi after the planned drawdown of the Office and the establishment of a United Nations country team. It also requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to finalize a transition plan by 15 May 2014. A report was submitted regularly to the Security Council.

193. The Committee warmly thanked the representative of UNOCA for the information and commended the spirit of cooperation displayed by the various United Nations missions. The Committee requested that provisions should be made for future meetings to ensure the effective participation of all entities invited to give presentations, including those with observer status.

XIII. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of its strategic partnerships

194. The ECCAS secretariat gave a presentation on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of its strategic partnerships.

195. Two implementation instruments of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, namely the Central African Early Warning Mechanism and the Central African Multinational Force, as well as the Directorate for Human Security, along with the entire Department of Human Integration, Peace, Security and

Stability, were in the final stages of operationalization, in line with the African Union's timeline for the continent.

196. With respect to Loango 2014, the multinational and multidimensional exercise to be held in Pointe-Noire, the Committee urged ECCAS member States that had not fulfilled their financial and logistical commitments to do so as soon as possible.

197. The Committee also encouraged the ECCAS secretariat to strengthen its strategic partnerships, including with the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union. In that regard, the Committee took note of the deployment by UNDP of a consultant to support ECCAS in assessing the status of implementation of the road map for the African Peace and Security Architecture.

XIV. Thematic discussion on elections in the Central African subregion: national electoral capacity-building for the conduct of credible and peaceful elections

198. The head of the ECCAS Electoral Support Unit gave a presentation on the topic selected for the thematic discussion.

199. Several States in the subregion were preparing to hold elections in the coming years (2014, 2015 and 2016).

200. The head of the Electoral Support Unit recalled the international standards on electoral matters, such as those pertaining to constitutional amendments in the subregion, noting that States could request support from ECCAS on any aspect of the electoral process. Election observation missions such as those conducted by ECCAS were important in that they gave added credibility to those elections.

201. The Committee welcomed the presentation, which was followed by a lively debate, at the end of which the participants agreed that free and transparent elections played a key role in the democratic process of the countries in the subregion.

202. In that regard, the Committee requested ECCAS to work with UNDP, UNOCA and the African Peer Review Mechanism to propose at its next meeting practical arrangements that could be implemented at the regional level to support State efforts to reform and strengthen the electoral process in Central Africa.

203. The Committee recommended that a discussion should be held on States' capacity to conduct the entire electoral process on their own, and asked that the role of observers should be seen in that same light.

204. The Committee also recommended that attention should be devoted to the preparations for elections, in order to avoid disputes that sometimes led to violence.

XV. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by the member States

205. The Committee expressed deep concern at the status of contributions to the Trust Fund and regretted the fact that no progress had been made in that area since its last meeting, despite the commitments made by member countries. It

recommended that that important issue should be monitored more carefully and that member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that their financial contributions in relation to the Committee were up to date, in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration).

XVI. Place and date of the next meeting

206. The Committee decided to hold its thirty-ninth ministerial meeting in Bujumbura. The date would be communicated through the diplomatic channel.

XVII. Other matters

207. No other matters were raised.

XVIII. Adoption of the report of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting

208. The Committee adopted the present report on 2 August 2014.

XIX. Expression of thanks

209. On behalf of the Committee, the Minister of Internal Security of Rwanda, Mr. Sheikh Mussa Fazil Harerimana, read out the following expression of thanks:

"We, representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered on the occasion of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Malabo from 29 July to 2 August 2014,

(a) Reaffirm our commitment to the values of peace, security and stability that are so necessary for our respective peoples and for the socioeconomic development of our subregion;

(b) Commend the efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to promote peace, security, stability and development;

(c) Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, fraternity and mutual trust that has prevailed throughout our proceedings;

(d) Express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the President of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and to the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality we have received during our stay in Equatorial Guinea."

Enclosure I

Malabo Appeal on the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic

We,

the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Gathered in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, on the occasion of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Committee,

Considering the geopolitical and security situation of the member States:

- Express our deep concern about the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;
- Welcome the convening in Brazzaville, from 21 to 23 July 2014, of the forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue in the Central African Republic, which brought together the transitional authorities, political parties, civil society and armed groups in an international mediation process led by Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo;
- Welcome the signing by all parties of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in the Central African Republic, which is the first step in a process that is ongoing and will be further expanded in the Central African Republic;
- Urge the various actors to honour commitments and thereby foster the restoration of a climate of peace and security necessary for successful transition, with a view to restoring the normal constitutional order in the Central African Republic;
- Reaffirm the commitment of our States to supporting the transition process and to taking a more active role in all initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis in the Central African Republic;
- Invite the international community to continue to support the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the Central African Republic;
- Pay tribute, once again, to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and reiterate our gratitude to fraternal and friendly States for their wide-ranging assistance in the efforts to restore sustainable peace in the Central African Republic;
- Appeal to all States members of the Committee to contribute significantly to the effective transfer of authority from MISCA to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) on 15 September 2014;
- Express our gratitude to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as regional and international partners, for their strong support in the international mediation effort.

Done at Malabo on 2 August 2014

Enclosure II

List of participants

Angola

No.	*Name*	*Title*
1	Ms. Angela **Bragança** (head of delegation)	Secretary of State for Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2	Mr. Manuel Vieira da **Fonseca**	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations, New York
3	Mr. Alberto **Cabongo**	Adviser/Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Ms. Maria Narcisa **Mateus Miguel**	Diplomat, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5	Mr. Sebastião Francisco **Domingos Cardoso**	Head of Department, Chief of Police
6	Mr. Vicente Muandju Zeca	Adviser to the Minister of the Interior
7	Mr. Walker Marcolino dos Reis Garcia	Adviser to the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8	Ms. Teresa Maria Manuel Alves Augusto	Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
9	Mr. Celso Faustino Dange Vunge	Adviser to the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10	Mr. Mário Domingos **Simão**	Military Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations, New York
11	Ms. Albertina **Wilson da Silva Carvalho e Silva**	Senior-level manager at the Ministry of Defence
12	Mr. Diogo **Fernandes Torres**	Senior-level manager at the Ministry of Defence
13	Mr. Lemos Correia **da Conceição**	Head of Department at the Ministry of Defence

Burundi

No.	*Name*	*Title*
14	Mr. Gabriel **Nizigama** (head of delegation)	Minister of Public Security
15	Mr. Zacharie **Gahutu**	Ambassador, Director-General for International Organizations and Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations
16	Mr. Zénon **Ndabeneze**	Chief, Special Office of the Directorate-General of the National Police of Burundi

Cameroon

No.	*Name*	*Title*
17	Mr. Lazare **Mpouel Bala** (head of delegation)	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cameroon in Equatorial Guinea
18	Mr. Désiré Jean Claude **Owono Menguele**	Director for United Nations Affairs and Decentralized Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Central African Republic

No.	*Name*	*Title*
19	Ms. Sophie Pulchérie **Gbadin** (head of delegation)	Ambassador, Chief of Staff of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and la Francophonie
20	Mr. Chérubin **Mologbama**	Ambassador, Director-General of Political Affairs
21	Mr. Richard Gatien **Hyeaumby-de-Moindi**	Inspector-General of the Army

Chad

No.	*Name*	*Title*
22	Ms. Isabelle Housna **Kassiré** (head of delegation)	Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration
23	Mr. Tordeta **Ratebaye**	Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration
24	Colonel Mahamat **Nil Abakar**	Military Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration

Congo

No.	*Name*	*Title*
25	Ms. Célestine **Kouakou**	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Congo in Equatorial Guinea
26	Ms. Chantal Maryse **Itoua-Apoyolo**	Deputy Secretary-General, Chief of the Department of Multilateral Affairs
27	Mr. Bienvenu Roland **Bikoumou**	Ambassador-at-large, Director of the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting
28	Mr. Philippe **Longonda**	Coordinator of Strategic Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
29	Mr. François **Nde**	Security Adviser
30	Mr. Bernard **Saba**	Army, Gendarmerie and Human Resources Adviser at the Ministry of Defence

No.	*Name*	*Title*
31	Mr. Gabriel **Angaba**	Technical Adviser, Office of the President of the Republic
32	Mr. Damase Raoul **Oko**	Director for United Nations Affairs
33	Mr. **Itoua Vouwalatchani**	Inspector, Maritime and Port Affairs/Maritime Security, Safety and Navigation Attaché, Ministry of the Merchant Marine
34	Mr. Guth **Ambomo Otsaka**	Attaché to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
35	Ms. Anne-Marie Rose **Kibongui-Saminou**	First Counsellor, Embassy of the Congo in Equatorial Guinea

Democratic Republic of the Congo

No.	*Name*	*Title*
36	Mr. Célestin **Tunda ya Kasende** (head of delegation)	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and la Francophonie
37	Mr. Jean Smith **Kabengele**	Political Adviser for Conflict Prevention and Management
38	Mr. Xavier-Honoré **Tati**	Director/Head of the Africa and Middle East Office

Equatorial Guinea

No.	*Name*	*Title*
39	Ms. Maria Angeles **Miaga Bibang**	Secretary of State for Financial Affairs, Inspection and State Property, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
40	Mr. Narciso **Ntugu Abeso Oyana**	Ambassador, Diplomatic Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
41	Mr. Santiago Mba **Sima Engona**	General Staff of the Armed Forces
42	Mr. Martin **Osa Ndemesoso**	Colonel, Head of the Operations Division, GRALFAS General Staff
43	Mr. Raimumdo **Ondo Ndjeng Manguo**	Chief of Staff of the Minister of Defence
44	Mr. **Ondo Nklu Eseng**	Director-General for Immigration
45	Mr. Joaquim **Owono Esono Angono**	Lt. Col. Adviser to the Head of Government on Security and Personal Discipline Matters
46	Ms. Rosalia Nguidong **Abeso Asangono**	Border Control Department, Ministry of the Interior and Local Corporations
47	Mr. Roque **Oyono Ondo**	Director-General for Democracy, Office of the Head of Government

No.	*Name*	*Title*
48	Mr. Domingo Sima **Ebang Ntongono**	Deputy Director-General for Security, responsible for the National Police
49	Mr. Jose-Antonio **Edjang Ntutumu**	Director-General for Regional Integration

Gabon

No.	*Name*	*Title*
50	Mr. Dieudonné **Nzengue** (head of delegation)	Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs
51	Mr. Michel Régis **Onanga Ndiaye**	Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations, New York
52	General Victor **Mounanga A'Mateba**	Adviser, Ministry of the Interior, National Focal Point for Small Arms and Light Weapons

Rwanda

No.	*Name*	*Title*
53	Mr. Sheikh Mussa Fazil **Harerimana** (head of delegation)	Minister of Internal Security of Rwanda
54	Mr. Jean Damascène **Rudasingwa**	Office of the President of the Republic
55	Mr. Deo **Nkusi**	Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
56	Mr. Wilson **Rwigamba**	Director, Office of the President of the Republic

Sao Tome and Principe

No.	*Name*	*Title*
57	Mr. Urbino José **Botelho Gonçalves** (head of delegation)	Ambassador, Director of Foreign Policy
58	Mr. Alexandre **de Sousa Pontes Segundo**	Lieutenant-Colonel, Commander of the Military Training Centre

Economic Community of Central African States

No.	*Name*	*Title*
59	General Guy Pierre **Garcia** (head of delegation)	Deputy Secretary-General, Department of Human Integration, Peace, Security and Stability, ECCAS
60	General Maurice Aguru Mamba	Director, Central African Early Warning Mechanism
61	Mr. Daniel Pascal **Elono**	Expert Analyst, Central African Early Warning Mechanism/ECCAS

No.	*Name*	*Title*
62	Mr. Thierry **Zang**	Small arms and light weapons expert
63	Mr. Petit-Lambert **Ovono**	Expert Analyst, Central African Early Warning Mechanism

Special guests

No.	*Name*	*Title*
64	Mr. Wullson **Mvomo Ela**	First Research Officer of the Directorate-General of National Security, Director of the Research Centre of the International School for Security Forces, regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa
65	Mr. Pierre Siméon **Athomo-Ndong**	Head of the Electoral Support Unit, ECCAS
66	Mr. Karna **Soro**	Senior Regional Adviser, Conflict and Development, UNDP
67	Mr. Bernard **Mokam**	Regional Adviser for the Sahel, Liaison Office of the Regional Centre for Africa, UNDP

Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States

No.	*Name*	*Title*
68	Mr. Théoneste **Mutsindashyaka**	Ambassador, Executive Secretary of RECSA

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
69	Mr. Leonardo **Lara**	Deputy Director and Political Affairs Expert

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
70	Mr. Ahowanou **Agbessi**	Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)/Director of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa
71	Mr. Timothy Franklin Kiven **Fonyuy**	Programming, Information and Documentation Officer

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

No.	*Name*	*Title*
72	Mr. Renner **Onana**	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
73	Mr. Abdoulaye **Bathily**	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA
74	Mr. Boris **Tchoumavi**	Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa
75	Mr. Norbert **Ouendji**	Public Information Officer, UNOCA
76	Mr. James **Aji**	Political Affairs Adviser, UNOCA
77	Ms. Nora **Benyakoub**	Political Affairs Adviser, UNOCA
78	Ms. Ablavi **Ayeh**	Administrative Assistant, Department of Political Affairs, UNOCA
79	Mr. Willy **Ndong Akoure**	Procurement Officer, UNOCA